

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed March 30, 2007 has been received and the Examiner's comments carefully reviewed. Claims 1, 3-10, 12-16, 35-39, 49-51, and 53-68 are currently pending. Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

Objection to the Specification

The specification is objected to for failing to contain a cross-reference to related divisional reissue application 11/397,885. The specification has been amended accordingly. Withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Oath/Declaration

The original Oath/Declaration has been deemed defective for failing to identify at least one error which is relied upon to support the reissue application. Applicants respectfully traverse this assertion, but have herewith submitted a Substitute Declaration. It is believed that the present Substitute Declaration addresses both declaration requirements raised by the Examiner, that is, the "statement of error" requirement and the requirement concerning amendments made after the filing of the original Declaration.

Applicants respectfully submit that the Substitute Declaration is in conformance with 35 U.S.C. §251, and that the present application is now in condition for allowance.

Claims Rejection

Claims 1, 3-10, 12-16, 35-39, 49-51, and 53-68 are rejected as being based upon a defective reissue declaration under 35 U.S.C. §251. For the reasons discussed above with regards to the Oath/Declaration, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 3-10, 12-16, 35-39, 49-51, and 53-68 are now in condition for allowance.

SUMMARY

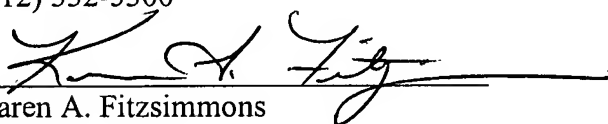
It is respectfully submitted that each of the presently pending claims (claims 1, 3-10, 12-16, 35-39, 49-51, and 53-68) is in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is requested. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the below-listed telephone number if it is believed that prosecution of this application may be assisted thereby.



Date: May 25, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
(612) 332-5300


Karen A. Fitzsimmons
Reg. No. 50,470
KAF/cjc